(iii) The officers of the State Governments' and the Ministry conducted surprise checks of the FPSs to over see the quality of foodgrains being distributed through TPDS.

(iv) The officers of the Department designated as 'Area Officers' for monitoring the TPDS work in the respective States also undertake visits to the storage depots and the FPSs, during their visit to the States to check the quality of foodgrains being issued.

Scrapping of Essential Commodities Act

964. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA:
MISS MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering FICCI Task Force recommendations on scrapping the Essential Commodities Act in order to make Indian agricultural products globally competitive; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Extension of Antyodaya Anna Yojana

965. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether in order to relieve the economic burden from the destitute senior citizens and tribals Government have decided to provide them foodgrains at a subsidized prices;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry's decision to extend the Antyodaya Anna Yojana from one crore to two crores among estimated number of Below Poverty Line families in the country came as they could not be